

Appl. No. 09/729,128
Amdt. dated November 24, 2003
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5-14 and 20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice to filing a continuation application drawn thereto.

In the most recent office action mailed September 24, 2003 including final rejection of the claims, the Examiner indicated that claim 20 was allowed, and that claims 5-14 would be allowable if amended to include the claims of the base independent claim and any intervening dependent claims.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability of claims by the Examiner. Accordingly, each of dependent claims 5 and 10 have now been amended to include the elements of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 2.

In order to expedite prosecution of this patent application, claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice to filing of continuation application(s) directed thereto.

Based on the above-referenced amendments and remarks, it is respectfully asserted that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and prompt issuance of a notice to that effect is requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent J. Tobin
Reg. No. 39,496

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 650-326-2422
KJT:jis/km/ejt

60063441 v1